(d) As per information available 2 pilots have joined Gulf Air after resigning from Indian Airlines.

(e) Proportionate amount has been recovered from the final settlement of 3 pilots. Letters/legal notices for recovery have been issued to the remaining 32 pilots.

Proposal for Changes in the Air Corporations Act

488. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to make changes in the Air Corporations Act;

(b) if so, whether the private airlines operating in the country are still feeling difficulties in proper functioning of their airlines;

(c) whether the monopoly of Government-owned airlines would be removed; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (d). The Air Corporations (Transfer of Undertakings and Repeal), Ordinance, 1994 was promulgated by the President on the 29th January 1994. In accordance with the Notification issued by the Government in pursuance of the Ordinance, The Air Corporation Act, 1953 will stand repealed with effect from 1st March, 1994. Consequently, the monopoly of Air India and Indian Airlines on scheduled air transport services would be extinguished and private operators would be able to apply for authorisation for operating scheduled air services subject to prescribed terms and conditions.

Equity Base of Air India

489. SHRI MENTAYPADMANABHAM; Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) what steps are being taken by Government to enhance equity base of Air India;

(b) whether it is a fact that employees of Air India are ready to purchase equity;

(c) if not, whether Government are planning to sell equity to foreign companies; and

(d) the details of present equity base and debt?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) There is no specific proposal, at present to expand equity base of Air India".

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

(d) Till 31.3.1993, Government have provided a total capital of Rs. 153.84 crores, of this, Rs. 79.47 crores is treated as equity and Rs. 74.37 crores as loan. The long term debt of Air India from sources other than the Government is Rs. 2097. 10 crores as on 31.3.1995.

Amount Approved for Tourism Action Plan

490. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Committee of Secretaries has approved the Rs. 39,000 crore Torism Action Plan proposed by the Tourism Ministry; and

(b) if so what are the details of the plan?

THE MINISTER FOR CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b). No, Sir. The Department of Torism has prepared a discussion paper to augment tourist arrivals to India. The paper is still under discussion.

Failure of IA to sell A-320 aircraft

491. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to news item published in the Times of India of 1st February, 1994 under the caption "Why Indian Airlines failed to sell A- 320"; and